GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:745
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
NEW AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Agriculture Commission has been constituted; and

(b) if so, the composition and the terms of reference of the Commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The National Commission on Farmers set up through a Resolution dated 10th February, 2004 has recently been reconstituted. The Reconstituted Commission comprises a Chairman, two full-time Members, four part-time Members and a Member Secretary. The terms of reference of the reconstituted Commission are as under: -

- Work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security, overtime.

- Propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country, based on an agro- ecological and agro-climatic approach and the harnessing of frontier technologies.

- Bring out synergy between technology and policy and recommend measures for enhancing income and employment potential in rural areas through diversification, application of appropriate technology including IT for information on market, weather, credit facilities and e-commerce, training and market reforms.

- Suggest measures to attract and retain educated youth in farming and recommend for this purpose methods of technological upgrading of crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries (inland and marine), agro-forestry and agro-processing and associated marketing infrastructure.

- Suggest comprehensive policy reforms designed to enhance investment in agri- research, substantially increase flow of rural credit to farmers including small and marginal, triggering agricultural growth led economic progress, which can lead to opportunities for a healthy and productive life to rural families;

- Formulate special programmes for dryland farming for farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions, as well as for farmers in hilly and coastal areas in order to link the livelihood security of the farming communities living in such areas with the ecological security of regions. Review in this context, all ongoing Technology Missions like those relating to pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton, watershed etc. and recommend methods of promoting horizontal integration of vertically structured programmes. Also suggest credit-linked insurance schemes, which can protect resource poor farm families from unbearable risks. Further, suggest methods of strengthening and streamlining the National Horticulture Development Board.

- Suggest measures for enhancing the quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities so as to make them globally competitive through providing necessary facilities and application of frontier sciences and promote quality literacy for codex alimentarius standard, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures among farmers through reorienting and retooling extension machinery. Also suggest methods of providing adequate protection to farmers from imports when international prices fall sharply.

- Recommend measures for the credit, knowledge, skill, technological and marketing empowerment of women, taking into consideration the increasing feminization of agriculture and the proposed conferment of right to land ownership.

- Suggest methods of empowering male and female members of elected local bodies to discharge effectively their role in conserving and improving the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture like land, water, agro- biodiversity and the atmosphere with priority attention to irrigation water.

- Consider any other issue, which is relevant to the above or is specially referred to the Commission by Government.